Synopses of Exhibit
Washington and Franklin Coils
1914 Issue

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit will show the last flat plate Bureau issued government coils. It features production examples to show how the coils were made along with domestic and foreign usages on cover. The 1914 issue was printed on single line watermarked paper. This issue shows one major change in production. From the beginning of coil production the Bureau had experimented with the perforation gauge of the coils. The first coils were perforated gauge 12. This was not suitable because the coils would break frequently during the coiling stage in production. The Bureau then changed the perforation gauge to 8.5. This made the paper stronger, but difficult to separate causing the stamps to tear unevenly. The Bureau changed the perforation gauge to 10 with the 1914 issue which made the paper strong enough to remain intact during the coiling process and easy to separate when broken apart from the coil roll.

Challenge Factor: The 1914 coil issue were the last flat plate coils produced by the government. They were actually released along with the first rotary press coils in the same year. This may be the reason why some of the values are so difficult to locate on cover. The Bureau was promoting the new rotary press coils and didn't put much emphasis on selling the flat plate coils. This set contains seven issues. A one and two cent coil in vertical and horizontal format with the three, four, and five cent issue in horizontal format only. Mint examples of pairs and line pairs of all the denominations are easy to acquire. Used pairs and line pairs are a bit tougher. The greatest challenge are examples on cover used in time period. The two cent vertical coil along with the one and two cent horizontal coils are fairly easy to find on domestic mail. The rest of the series is another story.

The one cent vertical coil is virtually impossible to locate as a single usage. There are four documented usages. The current example in the Berkun census is a reported example and there have not been any submitted to either the APS or PF for verification of an EDU. The reported example in the census is not verified. **The single usage in the exhibit is the earliest verified example of the three known**.

The three cent horizontal coil is quite scarce with only four known examples on cover. The single usage in this exhibit is a new discovery that is the first documented commercial single usage of this coil. The 3 cent pair on cover is the second earliest date of use and one of two certified covers by the Philatelic Foundation. The APS has certified one single on cover with a 12 cent sheet stamp to Switzerland as the EDU.

The four cent value is also just as difficult, especially as a single usage paying the proper double weight letter rate. The four cent registered cover is one of five examples known.

The five cent is the most difficult of them all. The five cent pair on the registered cover is the only known usage on cover used in time period as well as the EDU for this issue. After consulting the three expertizing agencies, PF, PSE, and APS, there are no known documented single usages.

What is Presented: The exhibit begins with showing a comparison of the three perforation gauges. It then displays a variety of production examples starting with the special "COIL PLATES" used for the vertical coils. The production varieties include position pieces such as plate finishers initials, plate numbers, and guide lines. It also includes examples of coil construction pieces like paste-ups, leader strips, and trailer strips. The production section also includes examples on cover showing plate finishers initials, guide lines, and partial leader strips. In the postal history section it has examples of domestic and foreign usages.

Organization: The exhibit begins with a comparison of the three perforation gauges used by the Bureau for coils. It then shows production varieties starting with plate layout, plate markings, and coil construction. The last section is postal usages of each coil and is divided into domestic and foreign destinations. Items of significant importance are matted in a deep red.

Material Highlights: The items listed below are found in the exhibit in the same order.

1) A 2 cent horizontal coil used to pay the **fourth class rate** for sealed merchandise.
2) A 1 cent guide line pair paying the first class letter rate.
3) The **1 cent vertical coil** paying the first class post card rate.
4) A **3 cent horizontal single usage on a commercial cover.**
5) A 3 cent horizontal coil pair paying the triple weight first class letter rate. **Second earliest** documented usage.
6) The **EDU** of the 5 cent horizontal coil pair paying the 10 cent registration fee.
7) A 2 cent horizontal coil single to **Indo China** on a short paid cover with **Indo Chinese postage dues.**
8) A combination franking of a flat plate and rotary press coil to Argentina.

The synopsis needed updating due to the recent discovery of the 3 cent single usage on a commercial cover and more research information on the one cent vertical coil and the five cent horizontal coil.